

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 00809 110153Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /065 W

-----110156Z 129842 /64

R 110154Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8615

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER REELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE LORRAINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

REF: STRASBOURG 05 NOTAL

1. TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF THE LORRAINE REGIONAL COUNCIL DUEL, AMEMBASSY PARIS WOULD ADD TWO POINTS:

A) SERVAN-SCHREIBER'S VICTORY, HOWEVER CLOSE, MAY SERVE TO IMPROVE, AMONG SOME OF THE FRENCH ELECTORATE, PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S RATHER TARNISHED IMAGE. THE LAVISH IF INDIRECT ASSISTANCE BROUGHT TO JJSS' CAMPAIGN BY THE ELYSEE (PARA 4 REFTTEL) WILL CERTAINLY BE PAID BACK IN KIND WITH A CONTINUING POLICY ON THE PART OF FRANCE'S LARGEST SELLING NEWS WEEKLY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"L'EXPRESS" (OF WHICH JJSS IS EDITOR) TO SUPPORT TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER GOF POLICY.

B) THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF THE CENTRISTS IS YET WITH FRENCH POLITICS: RPR THREATS TO CENTRIST REGIONAL COUNCILLORS BEFORE AND DURING THE JANUARY 6 ELECTION AND THE FACT THE CENTRIST VOTES BROKE THE DEADLOCK

(SOME IR REGIONAL COUNCILLORS REPORTEDLY VOTED FOR MESSMER), CLEARLY EVINCE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SMALL PARTIES OF THE CENTER -- VIZ: THE RADICAL SOCIALISTS, THE CENTRE DES DEMOCRATES SOCIAUX, THE CENTRE REPUBLICAIN AND THE FEDERATION DES SOCIALISTES DEMOCRATES -- STILL MANAGE TO MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD ON A LOCAL AND NATIONAL SCALE (2 CENTRISTS ELECTED IN LAST NOVEMBER'S LEGISLATIVE BY-ELECTIONS).

2. MANY OBSERVERS SEE JJSS' VICTORY AS HARDENING THE STRUGGLE THAT ALREADY EXISTS ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL BETWEEN THE RPR ON THE ONE HAND AND THE IR/CENTER ON THE OTHER. WE AGREE WITH STRASBOURG'S ANALYSIS, HOWEVER; THE DIFFERENCES IN MOST CASES WILL BE OVERCOME AT THE END IN THE FACE OF THE COMMON ENEMY, THE UNION OF THE LEFT.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS00809
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770009-0844
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770163/aaaaccvv.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e142fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STRASBOURG 5
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3625233
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER REELECTED PRESI- DENT OF THE LORRAINE REGIONAL COUNCIL
TAGS: PINT, FR, (SERVAN-SCHREIBER, JEAN-JACQUES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e142fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009